



## Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive

---

News Center

News Articles Collection

---

2009-12

# Monterey County Resident Graduates From CHDS

## Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

---

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/51128>



Calhoun is a project of the Dudley Knox Library at NPS, furthering the precepts and goals of open government and government transparency. All information contained herein has been approved for release by the NPS Public Affairs Officer.

**Dudley Knox Library / Naval Postgraduate School**  
**411 Dyer Road / 1 University Circle**  
**Monterey, California USA 93943**

<http://www.nps.edu/library>

# Monterey County Resident Graduates From CHDS

 [chds.us/c/item/618](https://chds.us/c/item/618)

Michael Aspland has enjoyed a 21-year career in law enforcement advancing from street patrol duty in Santa Barbara to his current post as deputy chief of the Monterey Police Department.

Now armed with a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), he is as excited about the future of his career as he was the day he entered the police academy.

"I viewed this as an opportunity to expand my local view of government and my perspective on homeland security; it was very appealing to me," Aspland said.



Aspland's graduation marks the first time in the Center's history that a resident of Monterey, home to the Naval Postgraduate School, has earned a master's degree from the 7-year-old Center. (Karen Smith-Public Information Officer/Pandemic Influenza Coordinator, Monterey County Health Department, is currently enrolled as a student in the master's program.)

A resident of Monterey County who works just blocks from the NPS campus, Aspland was assigned to the NCR 0803/0804 cohort in Shepherdstown, W.Va., as is usually the case for students that reside in the vicinity of the campus. That proved to be fruitful as the NCR cohorts have more federal representation, which provided Aspland more insight into the workings of that level of government.

"The advantage was that I was one of three local (government employed) students," he said. "The most significant benefit is that I'm walking away with insight on how the federal government functions, how it is structured, and new relationships to build collaboration between local and federal public servants."

The program has bettered his understanding of the importance of bridging the gaps between various public safety disciplines and levels of government to better address the nation's homeland security needs, he said.

"That is probably the biggest challenge, to break through discipline and government cultures to develop shared service opportunities," Aspland said. "As I look at the next 10 years, my goal is to bridge the cultural, operational and philosophical differences and find balance between providing local services with a regional perspective and cooperation,"

That is part of the mission of CHDS – to bring together varied disciplines of law enforcement, fire safety, emergency management and public health. More than 300 up-and-coming professionals have graduated from the Center and represent small town fire and police agencies to the FBI and the military.

Another of the Center's missions is to bond academics with real-world policy that students can take back to their agencies and put into practice.

For Aspland, that means working on a collaborative, consensus driven team to design and build a new interoperable radio system that supports all Monterey County public service organizations including law, fire and 911 services.

His thesis centers on case studies of interoperable radio communications and governance in Monterey and Marin

counties. That's no small matter as a plethora of agencies have to agree on what type of communications system to buy, how to pay for it and how to manage it.

To make these kinds of efforts a reality, various players need to commit to what Aspland calls "time and grind."

"You have to spend time together grinding out the details," he said. The key to success is developing long term, professional relationships that transcend jurisdictions and disciplines.

Aspland chose to pursue a law enforcement career while attending Westmont College, where he graduated in 1986 after transferring from Cal State-Long Beach.

"It was an opportunity to serve," Aspland said. "I had been in the business administration program at Cal State-Long Beach, but I was interested in public service."

After graduation, he worked at Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall before he was hired by the Santa Barbara Police Department and attended police academy. From there, he worked patrol, street crimes and investigations – eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant. At the urging of Santa Barbara Police Chief Cam Sanchez, Aspland applied for the deputy chief position with the Monterey Police Department, where he was hired in 2003.

[Copyright/Accessibility/Section 508](#)